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20th ANNIVERSARY
Halifax Metro Centre
Wed, January 14 @ 7:00 P.M.
See Page 11 for more info!
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HALIFAX • MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

metronews

Celebrity Buzz



**Paris
disputes
her
image**
pg 14

Citizen gives cops tip-off in eatery break-and-enter

CRIME A concerned citizen called police to say a man was breaking into the Milano Restaurant on Chebucto Road in Halifax early yesterday.

The call came in at 2:25 a.m., and police arrested a 28-year-old man while he was coming out of the building.

METRO HALIFAX

Local pg 2

Even more winter for the HRM

Canada pg 4

'Two-beer' defence reviewed

World pg 5

Israel sends reserves into Gaza battle

Entertainment pg 11



Ledger's Joker wins Globe

Sports pg 8

Win over Bolts nabs Steelers AFC final spot

Workology pg 9

Fight planners see TV action first-hand

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca



Halifax Rainmen forward Rob Sanders drives to the hoop against the Montreal Sasquatch during the second half of yesterday afternoon's PBL game at the Metro Centre. Montreal squeaked by Halifax 105-103.

Rainmen forward benched

MATTHEW WUEST
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Eric Crookshank started the weekend guaranteeing a pair of Halifax Rainmen wins. He sat unhappily on the bench yesterday watching that guarantee go up in smoke.

Crookshank, a 6-foot-8 forward who led the Rainmen in scoring last season, was benched for more than two quarters, a 25-minute stretch, as his team lost 105-103 to the Montreal Sasquatch before a crowd of 1,300 at the Metro Centre.

"When you have one of your top players on the bench for two quarters, I don't understand that at all," Crookshank said. "Soon as I'm in the game, there's mad energy. I've proven I'm a great player. I don't know why I was benched."

The mood following yesterday's loss was much different than it was after Friday's home-opener in the Premier Basketball League. The Rainmen made a big impression on the crowd of 4,012, cruising past the

Quebec Kebs 124-112. Crookshank led the way with 26 points and nine rebounds.

Crookshank was subbed out yesterday at 3:41 of the first quarter with his team down 21-12. He was subbed back in to loud cheers with 2:18 left in the third quarter. The Rainmen trailed 70-60 and had made little progress in his absence.

"I wanted to sub myself in," Crookshank said. "I

"I've proven I'm a great player. I don't know why I was benched."

Eric Crookshank

got a teaspoon of coffee and I wanted a whole cup." Rainmen head coach Rick Lewis answered "no"

when asked if Crookshank played well before being subbed out.

"We had to find the right combination of players that would get us going and keep us going," Lewis said.

Crookshank fueled a fourth-quarter rally and still finished with a double-double (12 points and 10 rebounds).

He said there's "no I in team" and will be back at practice this week.

It was the first loss of the year for the first-place Rainmen (3-1).

MORE COVERAGE PG 8

Boy, 13, given year's probation in sex-assault case

RACHEL BOOMER
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A 13-year-old boy who egged on his friends as they sexually assaulted a 10-year-old girl last April was sentenced Friday to a year's probation.

"I'm sorry for what I did ... I'm sorry for what happened to her," the teen

told Judge Anne Derrick.

He pleaded guilty to being a party to the sexual assault. Another 12-year-old is still facing charges; the two other boys were too young to be prosecuted.

The April 25, 2008, attack began when the girl, her younger brother and four older boys got into a fight after school. The accused, then 12, urged the

"I'm sorry for what I did ... I'm sorry for what happened to her."

Boy convicted of being a party to sexual assault

girl to take off her clothes because one of the boys was going to "do it" with her.

In front of the girl's brother, an 11-year-old boy pulled down her pants and

underwear, touched her bare bottom and pretended to have sex with her.

A woman walking her dog in Fort Needham Park approached the group, ending the assault.

"She became scared of boys, and she was even fearful around her own dad and brother," said Derrick.

The sentenced boy's mom said she's forbidden him to spend time with the accused boys, and he's now taking Ritalin regularly.

Crown attorney Catherine Cogswell described the crime as a bullying incident that went too far.

Local



Got it? Strut it

Feeling too sexy for the catwalk? CTV's Canada's Next Top Model will arrive in Halifax this month looking for girls between the ages of 18 and 23 and at least 5-foot-8. Judges will be screening potential models at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Jan. 20.

METRO HALIFAX

Trio arrested in break-and-enter

INVESTIGATION RCMP arrested three people in a break-and-enter in progress on Saturday. A victim in a residence on Panavista Drive in Cole Harbour was assaulted at around 1:20 p.m. Police responded and arrested two men and a woman who were in a vehicle a short distance away from the residence. The victim wasn't co-operating with police. METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video New Brunswick community mourns anniversary of fatal van crash at metronews.ca/canada
Video Quebecers split with fellow Canadians over support for coalition government at metronews.ca/canada
Video Remembering when the army dug Toronto out from the snow at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Friday, Jan. 9
Super 7: 08, 12, 24, 26, 31, 37 & 41 Bonus 02
Saturday, Jan. 10
Lotto 6/49: 11, 17, 18, 25, 27 & 34 Bonus 19
These results are not official.

Again? More snow dumps on the HRM

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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It feels like the city is getting more than its fair share of snow lately.

Another storm warning was issued yesterday as between 15 to 20 centimetres of snow dumped on the HRM.

The snow started falling shortly before noon and kept going until the early evening.

Richard Lafortune, meteorologist with Environment Canada, said we're seeing a "more active" period of weather lately.

"We're getting more frequent systems going through," he said. "It seems the case for more than Atlantic Canada."

He said the rest of Canada is suffering a winter surge, as shown in the tie-ups at the airport before Christmas because of winter weather in other parts

"It's nothing out of the normal really; it just seems that way."

Meteorologist
Richard Lafortune

of the country.

"It's nothing out of the normal really; it just seems that way," Lafortune said in an interview yesterday.

Winds out of the north-east whipped up the falling snow yesterday afternoon, making driving in some areas a little tricky.

"Fortunately, the snow and blowing snow should come to an end by the early evening," he said.

Today will be much more boring in terms of weather: Lafortune said it should be more cloudy than sunny with a chance of flurries.



Defence Minister Peter MacKay, left, and Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly chat yesterday at the Dartmouth ferry terminal after announcing \$393,000 for ferry security upgrades.

Funds for ferry security upgrades

PAUL MCLEOD
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HRM's three ferry terminals will see an almost \$400,000 security upgrade as part of the federal government's push on infrastructure spending.

Yesterday at the Dartmouth ferry terminal, Defence Minister Peter MacKay announced \$393,000 toward physical security upgrades at the Dartmouth, Halifax and Woodside terminals.

No one cited any specific security issues at the terminals in the past. One Metro Transit staffer yesterday said it was "very rare" that they had to deal with any problems, even drunk passengers.

But MacKay said beefing up security is a proactive move.

"It's meant to be prepared and to pre-empt any security breaches," said MacKay. "It's an effort to modernize and prevent any security threat."

Changes include more cameras and fences, better lighting and new communications equipment. The funding also means contract work for between 15 and 20 people.

"We're just trying to be able to control the access points ... There have been some people going places where they're not supposed to be, so this will help control those elements," said Mayor Peter Kelly.

The changes are meant to improve security without

impeding the flow of traffic.

The money is tagged for ferry service specifically and can't be used toward installing cameras on buses. The municipality is still working on higher surveillance for buses after several attacks on bus drivers last year.

The contract for that project is out for proposal and Kelly hopes to see it done throughout 2009.

Yesterday's announcement fits with government promises to back infrastructure to help fight the economic downturn. Kelly has a list of \$1.2-billion worth of priorities he hopes to see completed.

"This has been approved, so we move this off the list and everything else moves up the list," he said.

Ambulance driver ticketed for fatal September crash

REPORT A 24-year-old paramedic was handed a ticket for the ambulance crash that killed a woman in September.

On Sept. 17, an ambulance was on Route 103 from Halifax transporting 53-year-old Kim Linette Baker to the Bridgewater hospital.

RCMP said in a report released Friday that the road and weather conditions the day of the collision were very good.

But the ambulance drove off the highway and landed in a wooded area near Hubbards, killing Baker, of Newburne, Lunenburg Co. The

two paramedics suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

RCMP said all aspects of the collision were examined by reconstruction experts who could give no cause for this accident other than the ambulance crossed the centre line.

The driver was issued a ticket for driving left of a solid line on the highway. He was charged last month and if he wants to contest the ticket, a court date of Jan. 21 has been set.

RCMP say the investigation is completed and no more charges will be coming.

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

ACCIDENT A young driver hit a tree on Old Sambro Road on Friday just after 5 a.m. The driver was taken to the IWK with non-life-threatening injuries.

ARRESTS Police pulled over a suspicious vehicle on the Bedford Highway on Thursday morning and found a weapon. A man bolted from the car and the officer arrested him after a foot pursuit. Police found he had several warrants out for his arrest. The suspect suffered a few minor injuries during the apprehension, which were treated in hospital. He was charged with possessing a prohibited weapon. A second man in the car was also charged with possessing a prohibited weapon and breaching a court order.

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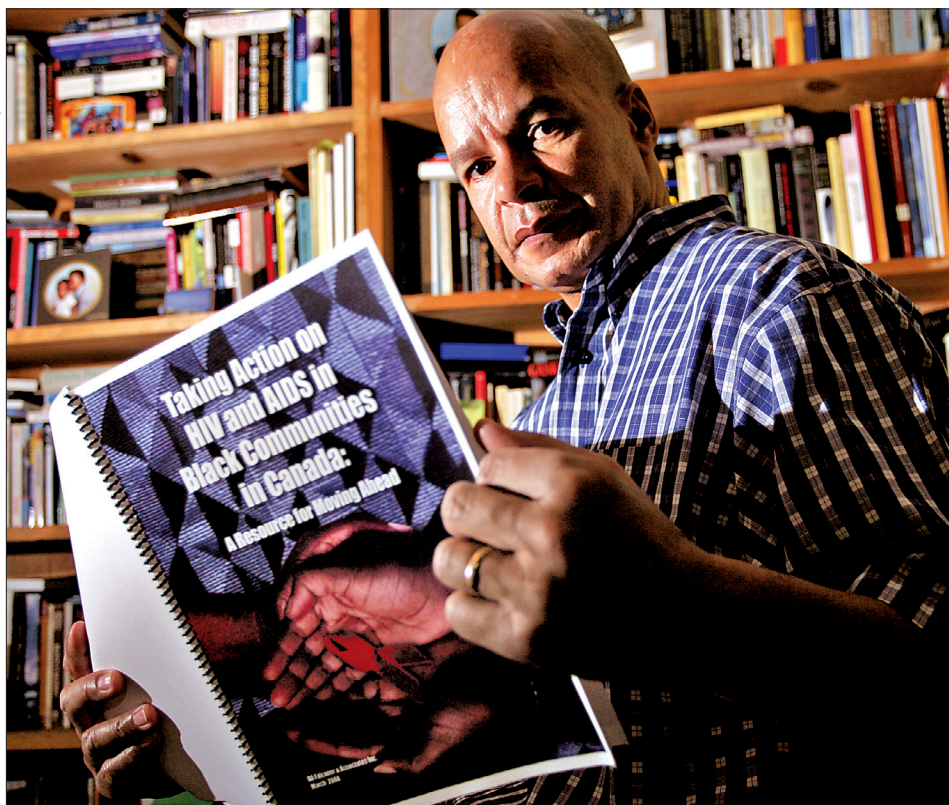
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Peace seeker in city on tour

Jeff Halper, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and a key figure in the Israeli peace movement, will stop in Halifax on tour today and tomorrow. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 3



David Divine, the James R. Johnston chair in black Canadian studies at Dalhousie University, says HIV-positive black people face a dual discrimination, which can make AIDS testing a hard sell.

Blacks feel dual stigma of racism, AIDS: Experts

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax



AIDS remains a disproportionate threat to Nova Scotia's African-Canadian community and the recent "criminalization" of the disease has made matters worse, experts say.

Larry Baxter is chairman of the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS. He has said the province's strategy on HIV-AIDS, announced in 2003, lacked input from black communities.

"I don't think much has changed," he said yesterday. "There are still issues of stigma, lack of information and lack of discussion within the community."

Two cases in Ontario where HIV-positive men were charged after having sex with women and not disclosing their status may discourage some men from getting tested,

"They are continuously afraid of being discriminated against not only because of their colour, but because the very possibility of having HIV-AIDS carries such a profound stigma."

David Divine

Baxter said.

"There's the thinking that if you don't know, you can't be held criminally liable," he said.

David Divine, the James R. Johnston chair in black Canadian studies at Dalhousie University, said the bigger problem is funding and attitude.

"In terms of a general movement of interest and information gathering, that most definitely has increased (since 2003)," he said.

"You can have significant sums of money available to an agency, but if the right people are not in that agency with the right attitudes ... you're not go-

ing to get anywhere."

Divine said it's difficult for a black person to go for an AIDS test. "They are continuously afraid of being discriminated against not only because of their colour, but because the very possibility of having HIV-AIDS carries such a profound stigma."

The Health Association of African Canadians is making dealing with AIDS one of its focuses for African Heritage Month in February. President Phyllis Marsh-Jarvis said fear, religious beliefs and stigma play a key role in discouraging people in her community from discussing AIDS.

Pick up trash: North-end councillor

PAUL MCLEOD
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Residents in HRM are throwing their recyclables to the curb, only to find them later replaced by garbage.

Now they want to know who's in charge of dealing with it.

Several residents have complained that garbage

collectors won't pick up the trash left behind by those who steal their recycling, said North End Halifax Coun. Jerry Blumenthal.

Blumenthal said he's been told the city is responsible once the bags hit the curb. But he said some residents were told it's their responsibility.

Tomorrow, he wants council to solve the issue

once and for all.

"I want a definitive statement. I want something that helps the residents and doesn't just help the people that are doing it," said Blumenthal.

Blumenthal said people will drive around in cars to collect recycling bags, then replace the bags with garbage. He said if trash collectors won't pick it up, then city staff should.

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Canada



Bag fees to fund WWF

The Loblaw grocery chain in Toronto will begin charging customers five cents per plastic bag today and says "partial proceeds" from the fee will go to World Wildlife Fund-Canada. The chain announced the ongoing donation yesterday, but said it won't reveal how much of the money goes to the conservation group until April, when its pay-for-plastic initiative goes nationwide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario man wins \$3M poker prize

MARTY YORK
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Late Saturday night, at a luxurious resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas, Pooria Nazari's first name became an oxymoron.

That's when Pooria, a 22-year-old biochemistry graduate out of McMaster University, became a multimil-

lionaire by winning a first prize of \$3-million US in the largest poker tournament outside Las Vegas.

Not a bad return on the Richmond Hill, Ont., native's original \$33 investment online at PokerStars.net. In a Hollywood sort of finish at the final table of the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure, Nazari needed only the fourth hand of heads-up

competition against American Tony Gregg before winning the championship and striking it rich.

Gregg had raised the pot to \$650,000, Nazari made it \$2 million, then Gregg shipped it all in.

"How much, like, \$8 million?" Nazari, in his dark sunglasses, asked

with little emotion. "I call." And he scraped out the triumph with a pair of 10s, beating Gregg's queen high.

Gregg garnered \$1.7 million as the bridesmaid, but Nazari made history with top spot among the 1,347 participants who competed for six days.

"I'm really not sure what I'll do with this money," a subdued Nazari said afterward. "It's just a little hard for me to believe right now. It's surreal."

Nazari, who finished his degree last month, said he only began playing poker six years ago while in high school. For the past few years, he has played online at PokerStars, the largest online poker-card room in

the world. He qualified for the Caribbean tournament through a \$33 re-buy turbo tourney, a series of quick-paced aggressive games that allow players the chance to buy back in, even after a loss.

In addition to the prize money, Nazari earned a berth into the European Poker Tour grand final in Monte Carlo from April 28 to May 3.

Lawyers defend 'two-beer' breathalyzer defence

LEGISLATION New federal legislation that virtually abolishes a "two-beer" defence to an impaired-driving charge is being pulled into court for a legal spot check.

Before the new legislation took effect last July 2, people accused of driving with more than .08 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood would often argue they had consumed just two beers. They might also say they drank the last one not long before the breath test, which may have resulted in more alcohol in their

breath than in their blood.

Under the changes, part of the federal government's Tackling Violent Crime Act, people who want to challenge a breathalyzer result are required to provide the court with technical evidence proving the equipment was malfunctioning or wasn't operated properly.

The first step in the legal challenge begins today when a Toronto court hears arguments over which level of court should hear the challenge.

Rights

Some lawyers say the legislation is unconstitutional.

Edmonton Suspicious fire



Neighbours confirmed a house that went up in flames Saturday was that of former Syncrude president, Jim Carter. The Edmonton police arson unit is investigating the blaze.

Documents reveal Omar Khadr's age a concern for gov't

KHADR Government lawyers have repeatedly raised concerns about the U.S. prosecution of Omar Khadr since he was only 15 when captured, while publicly, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has supported the war-crimes trial of the Toronto-born detainee.

Internal government documents obtained by Torstar News Service state that "Canada considers that Omar Khadr's juvenile status should be taken into account in all aspects of his detention, treatment, proceedings and possible sentence."

Torstar News Service made the request for documents through the Federal Access to Information legislation 17 months ago. The more than 100 heavily censored pages of documents from Canada's Justice and Foreign Affairs departments include legal opinions about Khadr's case and Guantanamo's war-crimes trials. One report concerning Canada's law for young offenders and titled Youth Criminal Justice Act is blacked out.

"Khadr's juvenile status should be taken into account." Document

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE

Saint Mary's School Review Meetings

The Halifax Regional School Board is currently conducting a school review of Saint Mary's School, a grade Primary to six school in Halifax.

Please be advised that public meetings originally scheduled for January 26th and 27th as part of the school review process have been rescheduled. The meetings will now take place at the following times:

Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 6 p.m. Saint Mary's School 5614 Morris Street, Halifax	(if necessary) Thursday, February 19, 2009, 6 p.m. Saint Mary's School 5614 Morris Street, Halifax
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The Halifax Regional School Board regrets any inconvenience caused by the change in dates.

www.hrsb.ns.ca



B.C. avalanches claim 11th victim

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

More victims

B.C. An American snowboarder caught in an avalanche near Terrace, B.C., has become the 11th person in two weeks to die in a slide on a British Columbia mountain.

The man's death came a day after Public Safety Minister John van Dongen announced Avalanche Awareness Days on Grouse Mountain, which ran until yesterday.

The 39-year-old victim, whose name hasn't been released, was buried in an avalanche on Alice Moun-

tain on Thursday, and died in a Washington State hospital on Saturday.

The man was part of a group of four heli-skiers who had been dropped on the mountain. His son was also swept away in the slide but survived.

with a transport truck. Relatives lit candles in memory of their lost loved ones at a memorial service at Holy Family Church.

OBAMA Barack Obama will visit Canada in his first international trip as U.S. president, the office of Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Saturday. No date for the trip was provided, but the statement said it would be Obama's first foreign trip as president.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

NEW BRUNSWICK About 200 people gathered at a church in Bathurst, N.B., yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the deaths of seven high school basketball players and one teacher who perished last year when their van collided

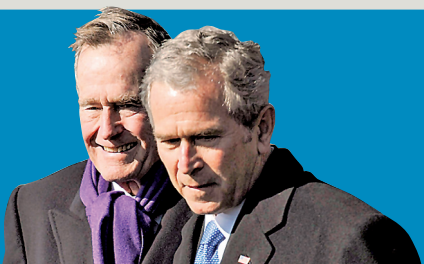
with a transport truck. Relatives lit candles in memory of their lost loved ones at a memorial service at Holy Family Church.

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

World



Elder Bush a ‘nut’ for skydiving

U.S. President George W. Bush said yesterday he thought his father, the former president, is a “nut” to plan to celebrate his 85th birthday with another skydive. “You’re going to have some trouble convincing Mother” about doing the next parachute jump, Bush, 62, told his father, George H.W. Bush, who turns 85 on June 12.

REUTERS

Israeli reservists sent to Gaza

Israel threw reservists into battle in the Gaza Strip yesterday and at least 31 Palestinians were killed on the 16th day of an offensive the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said was close to achieving its aims.

The reservists had been held back until now, as Israeli leaders ponder a full-scale assault on Gaza’s towns and cities to try to destroy Hamas’ ability to fire rockets into Israel.

It was unclear whether Israeli forces had been ordered to storm into built-up areas, risking higher

military casualties as well as heavy civilian losses.

Olmert, Defence Minister Ehud Barak and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni met to discuss their next move, Israel radio said, predicting more attacks on smuggling tunnels used by Hamas on the Gaza-Egyptian border.

The Palestinian death toll since the offensive began reached 890, many of them civilians, medical officials said. About 3,600 have been wounded. Thirteen Israelis — three civilians and 10 soldiers — have been killed,

REUTERS



An Israeli soldier looks out from atop an armoured personnel carrier yesterday as smoke rises across the border from the northern Gaza Strip.

Obama vows overhaul of U.S. financial rescue

ECONOMY U.S. president-elect Barack Obama vowed to retool a \$700-billion US financial rescue plan to save families from foreclosure, and his aides met congressional leaders yesterday to chart fresh spending measures.

Obama said his staff was working closely with congressional leaders to modify terms of the rescue plan and draft a broader stimu-

lus package that could, taken together, inject more than a trillion dollars into the ailing economy.

“We’re going to have a collaborative, consultative process with Congress over the next few days,” said Obama, who takes over as president from President George W. Bush on Jan. 20.

Obama wants passage of a stimulus plan by mid-February.

REUTERS

Politician’s maternity leave defended

FRANCE French female politicians defended Justice Minister Rachida Dati yesterday against critics who say she acted irresponsibly by taking five days maternity leave.

French mothers are entitled to 16 weeks paid leave, and women’s groups

say her decision to rush back after daughter Zohra was born would pressure others to do the same.

The move has been unpopular with the public. A poll in the Journal du Dimanche newspaper said 56 per cent thought she had returned too early.

REUTERS

News in brief

INDONESIA An Indonesian ferry carrying 250 passengers capsized and sank yesterday after being battered by a large wave in storms in the country’s

east yesterday, officials said, adding bad weather and night-fall made rescue efforts difficult. Six deaths have been confirmed in the accident.

POLITICS Battling murders and an economic crisis, Mexico’s Felipe Calderon will urge U.S. president-elect Barack Obama today to support his drug war

and stick to the NAFTA trade deal. Calderon will be the first foreign leader that Obama sits down with since he was elected in November.

REUTERS

A Message from Megan Leslie MP for Halifax



Our economy is facing one of its greatest challenges in generations. After the Government’s disappointing first attempt at addressing that challenge, it is critical that their forthcoming budget gets it right.

The federal budget will be introduced in Parliament on January 26th.



I want your input on how best we should stimulate the economy, protect jobs and bolster our social safety net. I will be making suggestions on behalf of our community before Budget Day and in Parliament during the budget debate. Please take a moment to write, cut out and mail your views and ideas to me, so that I may best represent your interests.

Mail postage-free to: Megan Leslie, MP 926 Confederation Building, House of Commons
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photo: Robin Hart Hiltz

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Comment & Views

Comment

It's better left unsaid

Or men should just learn to read a woman's mind

HineSight

Anne Hines



Someone said, "Life is lived in the subtext." I'm not sure who said it. Possibly me.

What it means is, if you want to find the truth of what another person is thinking, it's not enough to listen to what they say. You have to search underneath, far below the surface to find out what's really going on. Depending on how you look at it, this is either wise, insightful life advice or an excellent plot for a sci-fi movie.

When it comes to dealing with subtext, people fall into two categories. Some

have no idea subtext exists. Generally, we call these people "men." This accounts for painful events like this.

A week ago, a friend called, sobbing that her husband hadn't bought her a birthday gift. Apparently, he'd asked the week before what she wanted — she'd said, "Oh honey, being married to you is enough," and, inexplicably in the opinion of every woman she told this to, he believed her.

All miscommunication between men and women could be eliminated entirely if men would take the time to learn one simple skill — how to read our minds. Women, on the other

hand, not only know subliminal messages exist, we've turned it into an extreme support. I've spent many hours with my girlfriends, hun-

tered over glasses of red wine and low-fat nacho chips, happily playing "Guess The Subtext."

Friend: He isn't taking me to the basketball game. He says it's because I keep telling him I don't like sports. Us: That's what he

says. And the game begins.

It is possible for subtext to go unrecognized between two women. On the flimsy excuse that she has vacation days to use or she'll lose them, and I have no time off available, my

partner, Liz, recently announced that she's going on a cruise with her mother and without me. My subtext went like this:

Me: That's so great. I'm happy for you.

Subtext: You're what?

Me: I mean, what would you do if you stayed here?

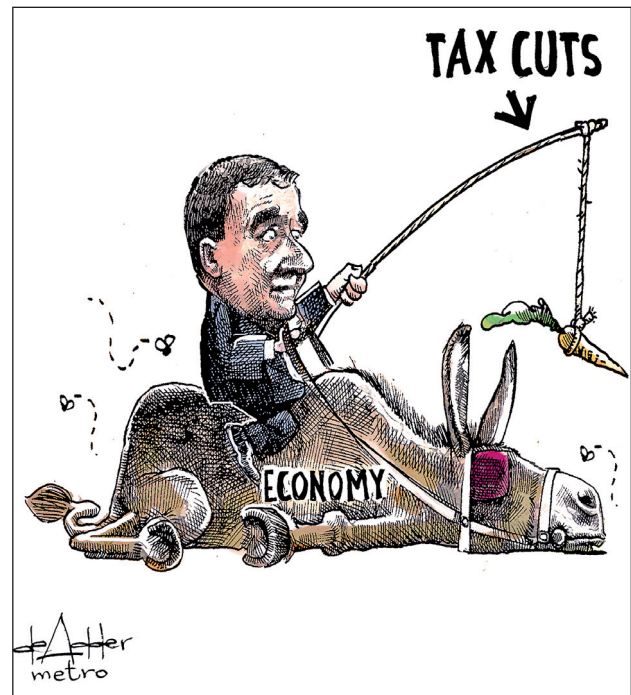
Cook me dinner, paint the laundry room like you keep promising, be waiting at the door when I come home ...

Me: Of course, I'm happy for you. I love you.

Even more than my iPod. I love my tunes. Hey, if Liz is away I can crank up the David Cook CD, sing really loud and practise my rock moves in the living room ... naked!

So maybe sometimes, there are things better left unsaid.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



Worth mentioning

U.S. group urges ban on cellphones while driving

The National Safety Council, which campaigned to get U.S. states to enforce seatbelt laws, is taking on cellphones, saying yesterday it was starting a campaign to ban all use of mobile phones while driving.

Even so-called hands-free devices should be banned, because studies show they do not make it any safer to talk on the telephone while driving, the group said.

"It's time to take the cell-phone away," said Janet Froetscher, president and chief executive officer of

the non-profit group.

"Studies show that driving while talking on a cellphone is extremely dangerous and puts drivers at a four times greater risk of a crash," Froetscher said in a telephone interview.

Last month, Dave Strayer of the University of Utah and colleagues demonstrated that drivers using a hands-free device drifted out of their lanes and missed exits more frequently than drivers talking to a passenger.

REUTERS

Quote of the Day

"Israel is getting close to achieving the goals it set for itself."

— Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to his cabinet on the Gaza offensive.

REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

68% SAID Not at all	Are you worried about nanotechnology?	13% SAID Not sure
11% SAID Very	Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca	8% SAID Somewhat

Views

Examine Halifax with a new outlook

UrbanScrawl

Christina Biluk

theurbanscrawl@gmail.com

The start of the year always feels like a clean slate, an opportunity to change things from the year before, set new goals and meet new challenges.

So instead of the usual resolutions to lose weight, quit smoking or pay off debt ... consider looking at the world with a new lens and make a commitment to help make your city a better place to live, work and play.

Stand up for what you believe in. It's easy to complain, but have you

done anything about it? Our views and concerns can only be represented if someone knows what they are. Write a letter to the editor, attend

a public hearing, start a group on Facebook. Take some kind of action to let people know what you think, feel and believe.

Take initiative. If we all waited for someone else to take care of it, we wouldn't have hybrid cars, recycling programs or charitable organizations. People who take action with their ideas change our world. Start small and organize a neighbourhood cleanup. Raise money for something you believe in. Vote.

Care enough to do something about what matters to you.

Open your world. If you break free from your comfort zone, you'll be surprised to find out there is a whole world of things that you may like (or may not) but haven't tried

before. Do something out of the ordinary. Eat sushi, try a new sport, go for a walk in a neighbourhood that isn't your own, watch an independent movie at the Oxford, take in a festival or play. With every area we explore comes the possibility of a new-found love and passion — and who wouldn't like a little more passion in their

Make it your own responsibility to help make Halifax a better city to live, work and play.

lives?

Get engaged in your community. Meet people outside your circle of friends and work colleagues, and you'll open doors to a whole new Halifax. Attend a FUSION Halifax event, volunteer with a community organization or try a new hobby. Whatever it is, do it because it interests you, not because someone else you know is doing it.

This year, don't sit around and wait for opportunity to find you. Find it. Or better yet, make it happen.

Make it your own responsibility to help make Halifax a better city to live, work and play.

Christina Biluk is Director of Engagement for FUSION Halifax. Visit FUSIONHalifax.ca to find out how to get involved in shaping our city.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Has gas botttomed out?

The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the United States has risen to \$1.7793 US a gallon for the first time since the July all-time high of \$4.11 US, indicating the bottom has likely been hit, according to a nationwide Lundberg survey. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Hyundai takes Detroit's car of the year award

Hyundai Motor Co. took car of the year award at the Detroit auto show yesterday, marking a major step for the South Korean automaker in its push to produce a more upscale, mass-market vehicle for U.S. consumers.

The Hyundai Genesis was named the 2009 North American Car of the Year, while Ford Motor Co.'s F-150 was named Truck of

the Year.

The awards, which automakers typically use to market their vehicles, were made by a panel of 50 U.S. and Canadian automotive journalists and presented at the start of the North American International Auto Show. The awards are in its 16th year.

"This is not only a nod to our team, but also a nod to our customers, who keep

pushing us," said Mark Fields, head of Ford's operations in the Americas.

REUTERS

Last year's wins

- In 2008, General Motors won car of the year for the Chevrolet Malibu and took both car and truck honours at the 2007 show.

Toyota unveils all-electric commuter

AUTOS Toyota Motor Corp. said it would launch an all-electric car for city commuting by 2012 in the United States as part of its plan to speed up the introduction of green cars as its global sales falter.

The FT-EV concept made its debut at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit yesterday, where the world's top automaker is also un-

veiling two new gasoline-electric hybrid cars.

The FT-EV concept shares a platform with the tiny iQ urban commuter car, which runs on a gasoline engine and emits just 99 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre.

Toyota said the concept car is targeted at the urban dweller driving up to 80 km between home and work, for instance.

Toyota, which had previously said it would aim to get an electric car out by the "early part of the next decade", would join rivals General Motors Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. in the race to grab the lead in the zero-emission car segment.

But Toyota said it still considered gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles its long-term core powertrain technology.

REUTERS

Satyam does damage control

SCANDAL The Indian government installed a new board at Satyam Computer Services Ltd. yesterday as authorities stepped up efforts to limit the damage from a fraud that has become India's biggest corporate scandal.

The three-member board was to meet today to lay out a roadmap for restoring confidence of clients and staff following revelations of accounting fraud.

"Restoring confidence is

the main job, the first job we have, apart from restating the accounts," said Housing Development Finance Corp. chairman Deepak Parekh, who was earlier named one of three members on the board along with Kiran Karnik, formerly of National Association of Software and Service Companies, and C. Achutan, a former official of the regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India.

REUTERS

In brief

POLITICS Mary Schapiro, nominated as the new head of Securities and Exchange Commission, faces a bumpy ride after confirming she was connected to the Bernard Madoff scandal through her current post at brokerage watchdog, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

BAILOUT GM says \$13.4 billion US in U.S. government loans will carry it through to March, allowing it to review need for further taxpayer-funded loans.

REUTERS



The Best Halifax has to Offer

Metro News and Kool 96.5 want YOU to weigh in on the city's coolest places to eat, party, shop – you name it!

Go to metronews.ca or kool965fm.ca to register your choice for this month's category:

Metro's Kooliest Jewelry Boutique!

One lucky player will win a prize pack valued at over \$100!



Do it daily.



We Play Anything. Kool 96.5 FM

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Plastic spending increases:

Moneris Solutions, processor of debit, credit and gift card payments, says during the holiday season, plastic spending at department and apparel stores went up in volume nine per cent, while discount stores decline 11 per cent. Nearly every major merchant category experienced spikes in consumer spending on credit and debit cards.

Plastic spending increases:

The Yarmouth International Airport Corporation has reached a deal with Starlink Aviation to provide daily service between Yarmouth and Halifax, and Yarmouth and Portland, Maine, starting in February. It will offer two round trips daily between the destinations, Monday through Friday.

Fewer jobs, StatsCan says:

New Statistics Canada numbers show that employment declined 34,000 for the second consecutive month in December, driven largely by construction. This caused the unemployment rate to rise 0.3 per cent to 6.6 per cent.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning by signing up for the Daily Business Buzz www.nsbj.ca

Gas crisis to end under EU's watch?

DISPUTE European Union monitors arrived at a Russian gas-export pipeline yesterday, in what could be the first step toward ending a supply cutoff that has plunged parts of Europe into a mid-winter energy crisis.

But it was unlikely the gas would reach Europe earlier than Tuesday, nearly two weeks after a gas price row broke out between Moscow and Kiev, choking supplies and raising new questions about the European Union's reliance on Russian energy.

Under an agreement brokered by the EU, Moscow and Kiev promised to restore gas flows once the monitors are in place at strategic locations along the pipeline routes from Russia, through Ukraine, to Europe.

The presence of monitors along the pipeline route is aimed at reassuring Moscow that Ukraine is not siphoning off gas intended for customers in Europe. **REUTERS**



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In July 2008, Staples acquired Corporate Express, one of the world's leading suppliers of office products.

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Edmonton's Randy Ferbey defeated Ontario's Glenn Howard in the \$100,000 TSN Skins Game at Casino Rama in Rama, Ont., yesterday. Ferbey's rink will take home \$70,000 for the victory. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



Tebow opts to stay in school

Fresh off carrying Florida to its second national championship in three years, Gators quarterback Tim Tebow, left, announced yesterday he will remain in school for his senior season. The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner surprised a large crowd celebrating Florida's 24-14 victory over Oklahoma in the BCS title game on Thursday by saying he will be back in uniform for the Gators next season. Tebow finished third in the Heisman voting this past season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Steelers light up Bolts

Eagles take down the defending Super Bowl champions

NFL RESULTS

Willie Parker rushed for a game-best 146 yards with two touchdowns on 27 carries as the Pittsburgh Steelers advanced to the AFC title game with a convincing 35-24 victory over the San Diego Chargers in an AFC divisional matchup from Heinz Field in Pittsburgh yesterday.

Ben Roethlisberger completed 17-of-26 passes for 181 yards and a score for the Steelers (13-4), who will host the AFC championship game next Sunday against the Baltimore Ravens at 6:30 p.m.

Santonio Holmes returned a punt for a touchdown, while Hines Ward led the receiving corps with 70 yards on four receptions.

Eagles 23, Giants 11 — Donovan McNabb threw for a touchdown and rushed for another and the Eagles defence kept the New York Giants out of the end zone, as the defending Super Bowl champions were out-



Santonio Holmes of the Pittsburgh Steelers fights off defenders to score a touchdown on a 67-yard punt return against the San Diego Chargers during their AFC playoff game yesterday at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh. The Steelers defeated the Chargers 35-24.

ed by rival Philadelphia, 23-11, in a physical NFC Divisional playoff battle.

Windy conditions at the Meadowlands kept both offences in check.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

NFL Conference Championship games

Both games played Sunday, Jan. 18

- **NFC:** Philadelphia (11-6-1) at Arizona (11-7), 4 p.m.
- **AFC:** Baltimore (13-5) at Pittsburgh (13-4), 7:30 p.m.

Sasquatch hand Rainmen first loss

Sasquatch 105 Rainmen 103

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

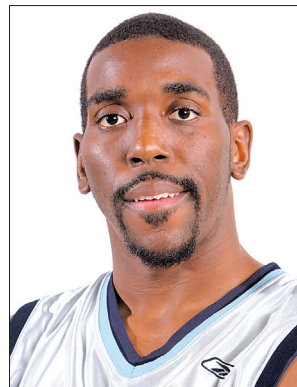
PBL The Halifax Rainmen have gotten a wakeup call.

The Rainmen, who may have thought they were going to steamroll the Premier Basketball League after a 3-0 start, tasted defeat for the first time yesterday with a 105-103 setback at the hands of the Montreal Sasquatch at the Metro Centre.

They're still first in the Atlantic Division, but they fell behind by 15 points after three quarters yesterday and needed a frantic rally in the fourth to make it close.

"Hopefully, we can pick up on this and take it as a lesson," said Rainmen forward David Bailey. "We got to get more unity on defence and have more patience. When we get guys talking, working together, we're going to improve."

• Brian Silverhorn didn't



David Bailey

play because of a knee injury. Bailey suffered a knee injury yesterday and will be evaluated today, while guard Jimmy Twyman hurt his hamstring.

• Big weekends for the Rainmen came from Rob Sanders and Eric Crookshank. The 6-foot-8 forwards had identical stats, with 38 points and 17 rebounds apiece.

Twyman (29 points) and small forward Cordell Jean-ty (24 points) were also contributors offensively.

Mooseheads take down Saguneens in a shootout

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Halifax 4 Chicoutimi 3 (SO)

QMJHL The Halifax Mooseheads used a bounce-back win to make sure their brush with last place was temporary.

The Mooseheads, who slid into a tie with the Val-d'Or Foreurs in the QMJHL basement on Friday with a 7-2 loss to the Baie-Comeau Drakkar, responded with a 4-3 shootout win over the Chicoutimi Saguneens in Quebec.

"It was real disappointing to lose 7-2 and it didn't sit well with our guys," said Mooseheads head coach Cam Russell. "It was good to see them come back with a win."

Blue-liner Pascal Amyot, acquired in a trade last week, had his second assist in as many games and was the first star. Gabriel Desjardins had a goal and an assist and was the third star, while Alexis Piette and Linden Bahm added singles.

Mark Yetman, who gave up five goals on 16 shots on Friday, stopped 31 shots and three more in the shootout.

"It was real disappointing to lose 7-2 and it didn't sit well with our guys. It was good to see them come back with a win."

Cam Russell

"He played great," said Russell. "That was probably the best game

I've seen him play in quite awhile."

• Justin Pender (hip) and Jessyko Bernard (groin) did not play on the weekend ... Halifax (12-27-4) has 28 points ... Jan Stransky has served his four-game suspension.

NBA Celtics down Raps 94-88



Boston Celtics guard Gabe Pruitt is fouled by Toronto Raptors forward Joey Graham, right, during yesterday's NBA game in Toronto. The Celtics beat the Raptors 94-88.

Glavic always a Huskie: Sumarah

FOOTBALL The Saint Mary's Huskies suffered a devastating blow on Friday with news that Hec Crighton-award winning quarterback Erik Glavic is headed to the Calgary Dinos.

Glavic, entering his third year of eligibility, was Canadian Interuniversity Sport football's player of the year in 2007, but missed most of last season with a knee injury. He informed the Huskies last week he was transferring.

"Erik is an exceptional football player who has the

ability to be a difference-maker for us," said Dinos head coach Blake Nill, who is a former head coach of the Huskies.

Said Huskies head coach Steve Sumarah: "Regardless of where he plays next season, Erik will always be an honoured part of Huskies' football success."

The Huskies immediately named Jack Creighton starting quarterback. Creighton was MVP of last year's Atlantic University Sport Loney Bowl.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

AUS HOCKEY The Saint Mary's Huskies won two home games on the weekend to stay tied with the New Brunswick Varsity Reds atop the Atlantic University Sport men's hockey standings. The Huskies (12-6) beat the St. Thomas Tommies 10-2 on Friday and the Moncton Aigles Bleus 4-2 on Saturday.

HOCKEY Halifax's Jillian Saulnier won silver with Canada at the world under-18 hockey championship in Fussen,

Germany, on Saturday. Canada lost 3-2 to the U.S. in the gold-medal game.

QMJHL Former Halifax Mooseheads forward Chad Earle has found a new home after being picked up on waivers by the Victoriaville Tigres. Earle was cut by Halifax last week as the team made an effort to get younger. Matt Snow, who was also cut, will join the junior A Bridgewater Lumberjacks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Moncton hospital set to become university teaching centre

New Brunswick's health minister says the Dr. Georges L. Dumont Regional Hospital, located in Moncton, is slated to become a university teaching centre, under which the hospital could access new funding and attract doctors and researchers. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Plea for colleges

Last month, Association of Canadian Community Colleges president James Knight wrote a letter addressed to all federal MPs urging the government to include the nation's colleges in its infrastructure plan. Knight says investment in college infrastructure is a "winning combination both ways," as it will address the shortage of classroom facilities and create jobs. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Hey you! Lets plan a fight

OddJobs

Diane Peters



The first fight Simon Fon ever designed got him a standing ovation.

He'd just graduated from the theatre program at York University and was doing the Dream in High Park in Toronto. He and veteran actor Philip Aiken were to fight using shields and Japanese staffs, but there was no choreography.

The two worked for hours on it, and the cast stood up and applauded when they did it for the first time. Fon now had a new passion besides acting.

Using the skills he'd learned in stage combat classes in school, plus the athleticism that had him trying sports as diverse as hockey and fencing, Fon started fight directing for small plays, often convincing the director he was needed and working for little to no money.

Over time, he got more and more work — especially when directors saw that a properly choreographed fight was a lot more interesting. He



Simon Fon discovered his passion, planning fights, after graduating from university.

eventually got film and TV work, where he did fight directing, stunt work and acting, usually of highly physical roles.

When he works on a movie, TV show or play, he usually meets with the director first to find out what he or she wants from the fight: how long

up with a basic fight that fits those requirements. Then he meets with the performers. "You really do have to get inside the actors' heads," he says. Using mainly their ideas — he often leaves his own notes sitting on the corner of the stage — they develop the fight in slow motion.

Once they've got most of the fight, he videotapes it, which they use to refine the movements and remember the choreography. On average, he takes about 20 hours to develop and perfect a two-minute stage fight.

it should be, what weapons the actors will use and how rough it should get.

On his own, he comes

"Now that I'm 41, I have to keep myself in shape, otherwise I won't be able to perform at my best or keep up with my students."

Simon Fon

The Lowdown

Job title: Fight director
Salary: About \$400 for theatre, \$600 and more a day for film and TV
Education: Skills in some form of combat, plus an understanding of acting
Best part of the job: "Seeing the moments work."
Worst part of the job: "Waiting to get the green light on projects."

Shakespeare Festival next summer) and also makes its own short films, which they've started winning awards for.

When he's not working or teaching stage combat at George Brown College, Fon is keeping fit. He cycles, does gymnastics, practises martial arts (he's got a black belt in Woo Gar Mo Sut) and develops fights with his colleagues from Riot Act. "Now that I'm 41, I have to keep myself in shape, otherwise I won't be able to perform at my best or keep up with my students."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

One-in-five plan job change in 2009

EMPLOYMENT Even with slower hiring predicted for 2009, 19 per cent of workers say finding a new job is on their list of New Year's resolutions and the same amount say they actually plan to leave their current job before the end of the year, according to CareerBuilder.com's latest survey. Additionally, six-in-10 workers say the economy and the tightening job market are not making them hold off on their plans to change jobs.

Workers cited a variety of reasons for wanting to leave their jobs in the new year, with the most workers, 49 per cent, reporting that better pay and/or career advancement opportunities are the primary reasons they plan to leave their current positions.

Fourteen per cent are looking for an environment where they feel more appreciated and 10 per cent want to work for a company that is making a difference. Seven per cent of workers are electing to change careers entirely. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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College & University 2009

Be wary of the 'CSI effect'

Curtain Call

RAFAEL BRUSLOW
for Metro Canada

CSI aficionados beware: Real studies and careers in forensics are nothing like the TV show.

Contrary to the break-neck pace of results gathering and analysis of crime scenes portrayed in shows like CSI: Miami and CSI: NY, real forensic science takes a great deal of patience and labour-intensive work.

Dr. Martin Evison, director of the University of Toronto's forensic science program, says the "CSI effect" — the instantaneous, logic-defying results portrayed on shows like CSI — can give many people the wrong idea of what forensics is really like.

"The first thing we tell students is that (forensic science) is not like CSI at



Dr. Martin Evison says forensics can be a highly rewarding field when matched to the right type of person.

all. A lot of it is very mechanistic, routine and laborious. However there is a reward at the end of the day — if you do it thoroughly and professionally, a forensic scientist can contribute to solving some quite seri-

ous crimes," Evison said.

He says the biggest exaggerations shows like CSI make are the speed at which analysis happens, the types of methods available and the exactness of the end results.

"It never happens at the touch of a button and a lot of what you see (on television) is science fantasy. The results can be rather more ambiguous than you can get from CSI," he said.

The "CSI effect" is so pronounced, Evison says, that it influenced the University of Toronto's own admission policies. Students cannot enter the forensic science program directly from high school — they have to apply formally to the program after at least one year of post-secondary studies. Evison says the process is necessary to make sure that only people

with an interest in real forensics rather than flashy TV theatrics get in.

"We try to guarantee that we admit those kinds of students who are academically good and have the right level of interest and maturity," Evison said.

Evison says the "CSI effect" has also had a direct influence on the way evidence is presented in the courtroom.

"If there is a phenomenon that typifies the way policing is changing it's a move away from eyewitness evidence and confessions and more towards physical evidence, which

"The first thing we tell students is that (forensic science) is not like CSI at all."

Dr. Martin Evison
director of U of T's
forensic science
program

science is expected to provide," Evison said.

While U of T is the only major medical university in Canada to offer a forensic science program, several undergraduate universities offer similar programs, including the University of Windsor and Trent University in Ontario and St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia.

Evison says forensics can be a highly rewarding field when matched to the right type of person.

"Forensic science suits problem-solving and patient personalities, people who are willing to do the meticulous work until they find something that hopefully contributes to solving a crime. You're not going to be paid the same salary as the actors on CSI, but you will do socially useful work," Evison said.

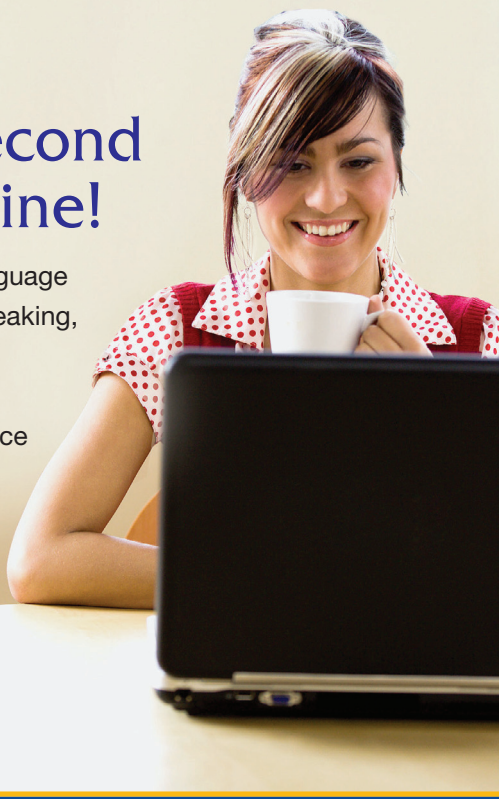


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High School Musical star ties the knot

High School Musical star KayCee Stroh married boyfriend Ben Higginson in a private Mormon ceremony at the Salt Lake Temple on Friday in Salt Lake City, Utah. **PEOPLE.COM**

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Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Fergie weds

Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie, left, and actor Josh Duhamel were married Saturday at the Church Estates Vineyards in Malibu, Calif. **PEOPLE.COM**



Ledger wins posthumous Globe

The late Heath Ledger in his villainous role as the Joker in the Batman movie The Dark Knight won a Golden Globe award yesterday for best supporting actor.

The award for Ledger, who died of an accidental drug overdose last year, was accepted by Dark Knight director Christopher Nolan, who said the loss of Ledger was like "a hole ripped in modern cinema."

"All of us who worked with Heath accept this with an awful mixture of sadness but incredible pride," Nolan said. "He will be eternally missed, but he will never be forgotten."

Briton Kate Winslet took the Golden Globe for best supporting actress for her portrayal of a German

woman with a hidden past in The Reader.

Winslet later won best actress for Revolutionary Road. Backstage, she told reporters: "I feel like the kid who came first in the running race at school, which I also never

won."

In other honours, Wall-E, a huge summer movie hit with \$523 million US at global box offices, took home the Golden Globe for best animated film.

Some of the night's television winners were Tom Wilkinson for best supporting actor in a miniseries for his role in the Revolutionary War tale John Adams; Laura Dern for best actress in a TV miniseries or movie for Recount; and Alec Baldwin for best actor in a TV comedy for 30 Rock.

REUTERS



Anne Hathaway

Winners

MOTION PICTURES:

- BEST DRAMA: Slumdog Millionaire
- BEST COMEDY OR MUSICAL: Vicky Cristina Barcelona
- BEST ACTRESS DRAMA: Kate Winslet, Revolutionary Road
- BEST ACTOR DRAMA: Mickey Rourke, The Wrestler

TELEVISION:

- BEST DRAMA: Mad Men
- BEST COMEDY: 30 Rock
- BEST ACTOR DRAMA: Gabriel Byrne, In Treatment
- BEST ACTRESS DRAMA: Anna Paquin, True Blood



For more red carpet photos and a complete list of Golden Globe winners, visit metronews.ca/entertainment



The late Heath Ledger won a Golden Globe yesterday for his turn as the Joker in The Dark Knight.

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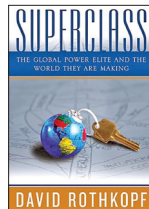
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On the trail of the Superclass

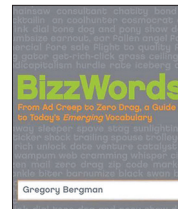


Superclass

Author: David Rothkopf
Publisher: Viking Canada
Price: \$34.00 (Hardcover)

David Rothkopf, a political writer and former Clinton administration staffer identifies something that 6,000 of the world's citizens have in common: They're members of a superclass.

This exhaustive account uses original reporting to demonstrate that individuals who wield top-tier power in spheres ranging from government and business through religion and crime tend to share personal connections, location and class background. Rothkopf not only pinpoints how one gains entry into the superclass, but also what consequences its existence may have for the rest of us.



BizzWords

Author: Gregory Bergman
Publisher: Adams Media
Price: \$10.99 (Paperback)

Don't you hate it when you put skin in the game, only to find you've been pump and dumped by some dirty-white-collar marzipan layer?

The folks around your company's water cooler may not string together such phrases, but BizzWords can still help simplify the semantics of the business world for you and other jargon-benighted folks. Author Gregory Bergman, associate editor of financial periodical Equities Magazine, provides definitions as well as history and usage for those terms he feels are essential for today's gunslingers, dot snots and cosmocrats.



Follow the Roar

Author: Bob Smiley
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: \$27.95 (Hardcover)

Throughout 2008, ESPN.com golf columnist Bob Smiley followed Tiger Woods doggedly around the world, dead set on witnessing every one of the 604 holes that his quarry would play over the entire season.

Smiley was determined to gain a better understanding of Woods the athlete and the man — and to find a bit of personal inspiration along the way. But in order to observe how Woods braved the forces of nature and humanity during what was to be the golfer's most thrilling season, Smiley himself had to make it through all manner of obstacles and adventures.

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metro
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Co-star couple

Actor Michael C. Hall has wed Jennifer Carpenter, who plays his sister on the Showtime series Dexter. The couple eloped in California on New Year's Eve. [USMAGAZINE.COM](#)



●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

One long 24 marathon

IntelVision



Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

ALL NIGHT LONG: The event runners watching the security monitors at Yorkdale shopping mall earlier this week had a running bet that Ryan Grech, a 23-year-old from Mississauga, Ont., who confessed to me that “I don’t really watch TV that much, to be honest,” wouldn’t last the first two days of the 24 marathon.

Global’s publicity stunt for the return of 24 to the air after a year and a half was inspired — a challenge where nine fans of the show had to stay glued to all six seasons of the show for as long as they could stay awake. Whoever remained alert after 70 hours would break a Guinness record for continuous TV viewing — a record that got extended by an hour last week when someone in Baltimore managed to break the existing record by an hour.

“As I started I didn’t think I was going to last,” Grech told me yesterday, after breaking the new record by a further hour on Friday and winning \$24,000, a Sharp Blu-ray player, two LCD TVs and the La-Z-Boy chair he was sitting in. “24 hours felt so far away that I didn’t think I would make it. I wasn’t one of the favourites, that’s for sure, but I was able to conserve my energy.”

“I had a game plan from the beginning. I looked at the food that they were serving and I’d say ‘Well, if I eat this I’m going to have to

In brief

COURTS Fugitive filmmaker Roman Polanski lost his bid to disqualify the Los Angeles County court system from considering his motion to dismiss a 30-year-old charge of unlawful sex with a minor. **REUTERS**

GlobalStyle



Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies



The continuing adventures of Jack Bauer returned to the air last night with the first half of a four-hour premiere full of the usual conspiracies and catastrophes. The second half airs tonight.

use the washroom.’ I pretty much just shut down my body for three days, and ate a lot of fruits and vegetables and a lot of water. As the competition went on I knew I got stronger.”

The continuing adventures of Jack Bauer, which returned to the air last night with the first half of a 4-hour premiere full of the usual conspiracies, catastrophes and character U-turns, is the only show Grech says he watches. The marathon

seemed like “a great opportunity to start the year off well,” said Grech, while he waits for an opening at a fire department in Ontario.

“24 was just a show that something caught me very early on,” he says. “I set that hour to watch every week, but other than that I’m pretty active — I go out a lot, I play sports.”

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Unborn: The story’s bad, cast even worse

The Unborn

Director: David Goyer
Stars: Odette Yustman, Gary Oldman
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada



Odette Yustman stars in The Unborn.

All the trailers claiming that The Unborn is the latest film by “the writer of the Dark Knight” is false advertising. Writer/director David Goyer only co-authored a Joker-related outline with Christopher Nolan years before he actually wrote the script.

The ads for The Unborn should be saying “from the director of Blade 3” because that would be a far more accurate foreshadowing of the ridiculous dialogue, amateurish acting, and cliché-ridden convoluted storytelling that define the movie.

Odette Yustman stars as a young woman haunted by the ghost of her departed twin brother who is desperate to break into our world. It’s not a terrible set up, but after the opening scenes

the plot gets so strained and confusing that everything from Nazism to possessed dogs end up tied into the haunting.

All of the dialogue is impossible to deliver truthfully, but the cast still manage to make it worse. Yustman shows why she was hired in a variety of lovingly photographed scenes in her underwear, but stumbles every time she tries to emote. The rest of the young cast surrounding Yustman are equally talent-deprived, capable of little more than appearing attractive on film.

The only person in the movie who can act is Gary Oldman, and while he does manage to make his lines

sound like they were spoken by a human, this is still the low point of his career. Appearing as a rabbi required to reenact a clumsily-staged copy of the climax of The Exorcist, Oldman is visibly bored by the film which clearly meant little more to him than a paycheque.

This is Goyer’s first straight horror film and he is obviously a fan of the genre because he steals from older and better horror movies in practically every scene.

Hopefully he ripped off all the horror movies he liked this time and has nothing left to “inspire” another outing in the genre.

critics' corner

Sophie
It’s a compliment when so many people trust you to keep their secrets, isn’t it? Tell that to Sophie (Natalie Brown), who realizes that she’s carrying around a full vault of secrets told to her by various people. And it’s getting more and more difficult to keep straight who told her what and whom not to tell what. Rick (Sebastian Spence) has new office space that’s too close to Sophie for comfort in the new episode “An Outing With Sophie.” 8:30 PM on CBC



Being Erica
Erica (Erin Karpluk) has a university education, but she can’t seem to get anything resembling a career off the ground. Maybe she needed to make some better contacts in school. To test that theory, she time-travels back to her university days to join an exclusive secret society in hopes of getting a better start. 9 PM on CBC

Intervention
This week, the series checks back in with Tressa and Josh. Tressa’s meth addiction destroyed her promising Olympic career. Now eight months sober, she’s working hard to stay on the right path and rekindle some of that lost potential. Going home for her mother’s wedding, she encounters both the joy and pain of her old lifestyle. Josh once weighed more than 500 pounds. Now 200 pounds lighter, he plans a surprise visit to his family. 10 PM on A&E

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/12/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	The Bachelor (N)		Samantha Who	True Beauty
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)		Paris Hilton's My New BFF	Paris Hilton	
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	Being Erica (HDTV) (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour	
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	Les Parent (N)	L'Auberge du chien noir (SC)	Les Boys (SC)	Tout sur moi	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Gags	Bloopers	Céline: hommage aux fans	Dr. House '97 secondes" (SC)	CSI: Miami (N)	TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Captain Cook: Obsession		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		News (N)	
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Miami "Head Case"		Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	EastLink Mag.	Fishing	Harv's Sportsland (Live)	Build It	24 (HDTV PA) (N)		EastLink Television	
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Superstars of Dance	The dance competition continues.		Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)				Momma's Boys
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Guide, Science
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	Chronicles	Antiques Roadshow (N)	The Story of India (N)		India
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Antiques Roadshow (N)	The Story of India (N)		India
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)		Beauté	C'tune joke	CSI: NY (SC)	Terminator: Les Chroniques		110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Berman's Call	Money Talks	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Cooper 360
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	Lessons	Golf Hawaii (N)	PGA Tour Golf Mercedes-Benz Championship -- Final Round.			Lessons
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports		World Sport	UFC Primetime	Ultimate Fighting Championship 83: Serra vs. St. Pierre 2			Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	RaceNight		(10:15) WWE Monday Night Raw			
news	45	45	45	SPD	NASCAR Pre.	Pass Time	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	Auctions
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Boston Celtics, (HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Zixx Level
	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Cop Killer"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention "Phillip"		Intervention (HDTV) (N)	Intervention
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Notre People		Terres arct.	Mishkuenita	Terre sauvage (1994, Western), Vivian Schilling	
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Hair Show ★ (2004, Comedy) Mo'Nique, Kellita Smith, Gina Torres.					Top 25 Under
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Dance		Dance With Me		Soweto Gospel Choir	
family	25	25	25	CMT	Dedicated		All About (N)	All About ...	Home Improve.		Reba	Reba
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park
	153	153	153	COURT	W-Five		World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Legal Briefs	Police Videos
	38	38	38	DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs	Vermintors
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	House Hunters
	46	46	46	HIST	Escape From Auschwitz		NCIS "Singed Out"		Battle 360		Escape From Auschwitz	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens	MuchNews
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		Revival	Listed (Part 1 of 2)		Where You At	Back In
	201	201	201	M1	Sanctuary (Part 2 of 2)		Sanctuary "Revelations"		Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	Californication
	48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman (N)		Mantracker	Bounty Hunter
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Lethal Weapon 2 ★★★ (1989, Action)	Mel Gibson, Danny Glover.		
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) Below (2002)		(8:10) The Pyx ★★ (1973, Horror) Karen Black.				Ei Mariachi ★★★ (1992, Action)	
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted		Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Tabatha's Salon Takeover	Tim Gunn-Style
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Lost "Confirmed Dead"		Lost "The Economist"		The Dresden Files	Ghost Hunters
	14	14	14	SPIKE	Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi ★★★ (1983, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher.				Resident Evil ★ (2002, Horror) Milla Jovovich.			
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)	TMZ (N)	etalk		Relative Madness (N)	Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Kids by the Dozen		Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	56	34	34	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	TV Made, Do It	News Show	Tube Tales	What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It



Pink and Carey Hart may have split in February — but they seemed very much together last week, usmagazine reports. The website says a source spotted the pair smooching on New Year's Eve — and says they spent the entire weekend together. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Craig is down to earth, says Schreiber

CAREER Liev Schreiber and Daniel Craig got “really silly” on the set of new movie *Defiance*, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Liev admits he was surprised by how down to earth Daniel was, adding the pair — who play Jewish brothers who take refuge in the forest to escape the Nazis during the Second World War — became the best of friends during filming.

He said: “I was really impressed that Daniel Craig was this major motion picture star who didn’t go to his trailer in between takes. I’m ac-

customed to that with A-list actors. They go to their trailer and then we all wait for them to come out. But Daniel didn’t. He sat with us and told stories and we had snowball fights and we bonded. Actually we got really silly. We spent a lot of time being silly.”

The 41-year-old actor also revealed the pair bonded over vodka, as

consuming vast amounts of the potent alcoholic beverage was the only way they could stay warm while filming in Lithuania

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Allen criticizes label’s lodging

PEOPLE British pop star Lily Allen has hit out at her record label for failing to make her trips abroad luxurious enough, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Smile singer claims she only made \$72,500 US from her debut album, 2006’s *Alright, Still*, despite the LP going on to sell nearly two million copies worldwide.

And Allen claims she is forced to stay in sub-standard accommodation while she is abroad promoting her music, because executives at Emi Records refuse to pay for her to stay in expensive hotels, the website adds.

“Twenty years ago, I’d

have been booked in at the Ritz with five grams of cocaine on my table and 10 bunches of flowers. Some new clothes. A chauffeur on 24-hour call. Now I’m lucky to get an Oyster card (London public transport travel ticket),” the website quotes her as saying.

“I ask for a hotel in Paris and I get a two-star place in the eighth arrondissement on my own. I’m like ‘Do you want me to get raped and killed?’ I’m not being snobby. But if I have to go away for work, why can’t it be nice for me when it’s making them money?”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lohan upset over film roles

CAREER Lindsay Lohan is annoyed she doesn’t win as many film roles as Scarlett Johansson — because she is convinced she works just as hard as the *Lost in Translation* star, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Lohan fears she isn’t taken seriously by filmmakers because the last few turbulent years of her life — in which she was arrested for drink driving and spent time in rehab — tarnished her reputation as a serious actress, the website says.

And the 22-year-old is still struggling to shake her party girl image because she is constantly in the media spotlight. But the star remains adamant she is hard-working and deserving of as many acting roles as the other actresses of her generation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Paris disputes her promiscuous image

PEOPLE For everyone who thinks the name Paris Hilton is synonymous with promiscuous, well, think again, says the heiress, intouchweekly.com reports.

“I’ve only ever done it with a couple of people,” Paris tells U.K. *Glamour*. “People make up stories, but mostly I just kiss.”

In fact, it seems Paris is a Rules girl when

it comes down to it, adds the website. “I think it’s important to play hard to get,” she advises. “Nobody wants the fake Prada bag — they want the brand-new bag that no one can get and is the most expensive. If you give it up to a guy, he won’t respect you. He’ll want you much more if he can’t have you.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



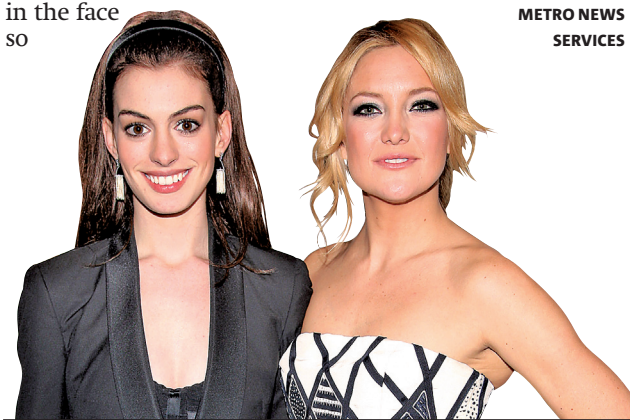
Kate accidentally whacks ‘Annie’

FILMING During the filming of their big fight scene in *Bride Wars*, it seems Kate Hudson and Anne Hathway got a little carried away, intouchweekly.com reports.

“We were really tired, and I had this big rock on my finger. I whacked Annie in the face so

hard,” Kate admitted on the Rachael Ray show last week. “She was like, ‘No, no, keep going’ because she was so into it. Two hours later, she’s sitting in the back of a car with an ice pack on her face. I was so bad. I really clocked her.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Burke happy for Dancing co-stars

RELATIONSHIPS Brooke Burke was among those not surprised by the engagement of *Dancing With the Stars*’ Karina Smirnoff and Maksim Chmerkovskiy, people.com reports.

“You could see the chemistry,” Burke, 37, *Dancing*’s Season 7 champ, told the magazine in Las Vegas Friday night. “I’m really happy for them and I hope it works out.”

The two professional dancers became engaged in Las Vegas at Wynn Las Vegas on New Year’s Eve.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Marsden likes wife to dress up

PEOPLE James Marsden likes his wife to dress up as Snow White, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The *Sex Drive* star has revealed that his wife of eight years — actress Lisa Linde — looks like the Disney character Snow White and even owns the costume.

He told *Arena* magazine: “Actually, if you look at my wife, and if she put that outfit on — I’m not saying we do that to spice things up — but she looks a lot like her.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cruise likes challenging roles

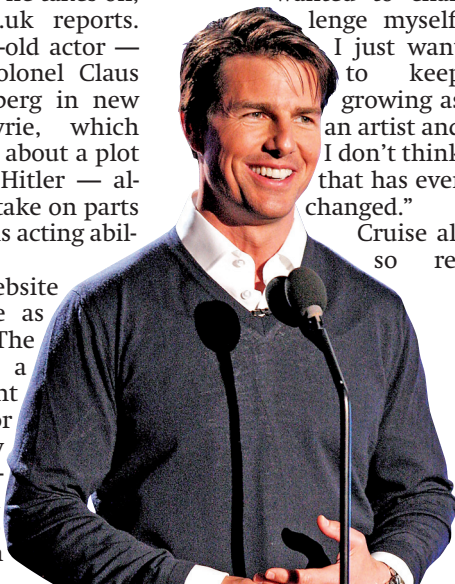
CAREER Tom Cruise always wants to challenge himself with the roles he takes on, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 46-year-old actor — who plays Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg in new movie *Valkyrie*, which tells the story about a plot to kill Adolf Hitler — always aims to take on parts which push his acting ability.

The website quotes Cruise as saying, “The colonel was a very different character for me to portray but I’ve always taken on challenging roles. I am

always looking for a good movie and I have always wanted to challenge myself. I just want to keep growing as an artist and I don’t think that has ever changed.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



vealed he wasn’t put off starring in the film by its controversial subject matter, femalefirst.co.uk adds.

Cruise added: “There was a lot of controversy but it kind of got blown out of proportion. Making the film was an intense experience. I didn’t know a lot about the story beforehand and I didn’t know the level of what this man, and all the men and their families, went through, so you naturally feel that kind of pressure.”

“I felt a great responsibility to make sure we had the spirit of the Resistance in this piece and that we were as accurate as possible.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Developing Leaders in Energy

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*Winners of the 2008 Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Innovation Grant, shown from left to right:
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